WENDELL POST

In Loving Memory of:
Frances Farmer
Donald R. Stuart

WENDELL DEPOT RAILROAD STATION

PUBLISHED BY E.C. PUTNAM

50¢ (cheap)

2000

Vol. 24 #3

Fall-Winter

$1.5 Million And Still Moving

A few weeks after the DEP had left a seeded finished site a new crevis began forming on the north face of the Mormon Hollow Landfill. The Recorder reported that in response to the new crack the DEP has moved 20 feet of material and plans to move 10 feet more.

Prior to the new crack forming the DEP Emergency Action at the Mormon Hollow Landfill had cost $1.5 million, involved the moving of 125,000 cubic feet of material, and construction of storm water drainage systems. The moved debris was put into two new cells lined with compressed clay. One is on the west side, frighteningly near Lyons Brook, the other is on the east side. The landfill has been seeded and most of it is covered with grass.

This is not a final cover and, according the Mark Haley of the DEP, the final cover should be installed as soon as possible.

Power has been brought to the leachate collection system on the north side of the landfill through a conduit running along the east side. The leachate system now has a pump that turns on when the level gets high enough and pumps the leachate through a pipe along the east side road about halfway back toward the entrance. The pipe then runs up the side of the landfill ending in a leachfield like system on the top that allows the leachate to perculate back through the mound.

Recirculating systems have been used on landfills, but so far as we know, not on an unlined landfill So far no one has offered an explanation as to what went wrong with this site. Neither has anyone said that the problem is resolve.

Nancy Riebschlager

FRIENDS OF THE WENDELL MEETING HOUSE UP-DATE

Sylvia Wetherby spread the seeds at Old Home Days this past summer when she passed out the flyer titled, "Should The Meeting House Be Saved?" A lot has grown from those seeds. There has been tremendous support and a lot of interest in finding ways to preserve and maintain the building.

The Friends Of The Wendell Meeting House is composed of about eight core members so far. The first meeting in August was filled with questions such as; Who has the deed? What does the building need? How should it be used? Who should own it? What kind of funding should be sought? How can this group organize to function efficiently? What is involved in becoming a non-profit organization? What needs to be done first to begin saving the building???

Since that first meeting, five more have been held. With a positive spirit, and the collaborative efforts of many people, a lot has been done to move this project forward; Historic documents have been collected, funding resources are being discovered, the deed has been found, officers have been appointed, and committees have been formed to research bylaws and legal matters, find ways to best preserve and maintain the building, and to find ways to finance the necessary repairs. A "Condition Analysis" has also been created on the structure of the Meeting House. There is a copy of that report with photos available to the public at the Wendell Free Library.

This is our community's Meeting House. It was built to last, and it has for more than 150 years. It now needs some TLC from this generation.

Meetings are open to all, and will continue to be announced in local newspapers as well as on a sign on the front of the Meeting House. To obtain information, or give ideas, drop in on a meeting, or send a note to Friends Of The Wendell Meeting House, PO Box 171, Wendell, MA 01379.

-Molly Kaynor

FISKE POND DREAMS

Potential buyers interested in the Fiske Pond property included Lake Grove School. According to the school's Director, Roland Paulauskas, "It is our understanding at this time that it has already sold to someone else." Their vision for the land was to build a transition home for graduates of their program. They also saw an opportunity to build a football/soccer field. These plans would have developed 10% of the land. "As far as the pond and land is concerned, we wanted to take good care of it and provide access to the community, with public access also including the playing fields."

Roland says, "We want to be a good neighbor. We aren't using any local resources (for our students' recreation). We go far away in order to maintain good relationships with the community." When asked a nosey question about where the kids go swimming, he said, "They don't." Fiske Pond might have provided a place for the school to provide supervised swimming for their students.

The Fiske Pond site, contrary to rumors circulating, was not envisioned as a place for additional staff housing, according to Roland. He said they have one property used for staff housing in Wendell at 50 Locksvillage Rd., and another house in Orange, which serves their needs.

Responding to questions about Lake Grove's relationship with the community lately, Roland spoke about changes that have occurred in the program over the last 10 years. The current program is more structured. He reports that the school has had no major complaints from the community in quite a while.

The MA Dept. of Education and the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Health Care Organizations regulate Lake Grove School. The school recently completed a 3.2 million-dollar construction project, which enlarged campus facilities. They are the town's largest taxpayer. Selectman Ted Lewis serves on their Advisory Board. "We are always ready to talk (to the townspeople). If they have questions they can call me (Roland Paulauskas) at 544-6913 ext. 15."

By Kathy Becker

WENDELL POST

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POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

Please send submissions to Wendell Post, P.O. Box 113, Wendell, MA 01379

All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed. If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: **3 ¾" wide, 12 point font size, standard font.** Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs. Please be brief, to share our limited space. If you have questions, call a Post staffer

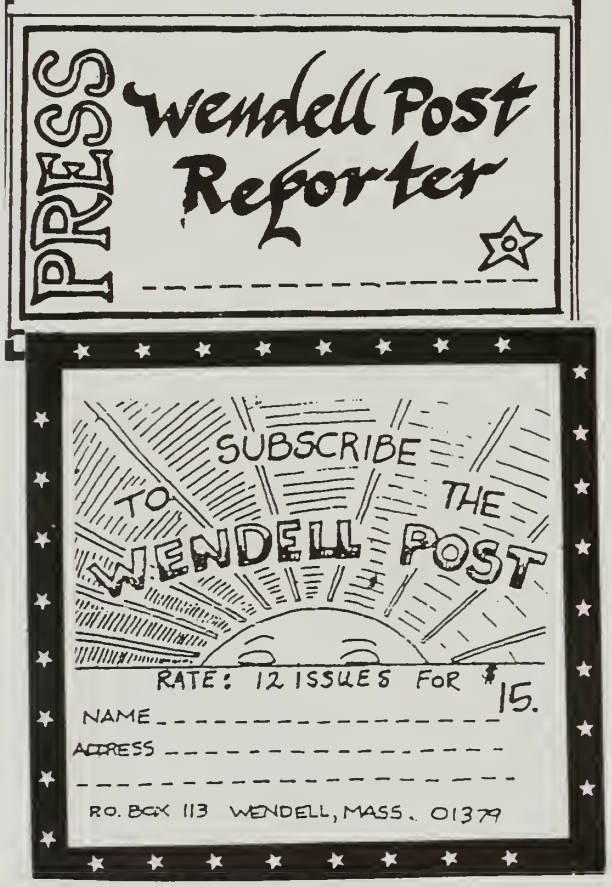
Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell.

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink

Ads: $7.50 per business card!

We now have an e-mail address! Write us or submit articles to wendellpost@yahoo.com



Get It?

I have heard it suggested that Wendell got what it deserved from the DB Dump fiasco. The rationale, although it is far from my own, is based upon a theory that if you don't actively work for changing what seems to be wrong, then you deserve what transpires. Does this mean that the young, the infirm, those overwhelmed by what already taxes their spirits, deserve the oppressive mountain that hulks and seeps and shifts in our valley? Does this theory hold that everywhere, injustice is the fault of the inactive? Or might we focus on those with power and plans?

In our society, we have the power, the democratic right and responsibility to speak against injustice. But our complex society has begun to demand of activists, a full time job, without financial support, working against well paid, steady surges of growth and greed. How can anyone with political and environmental consciousness have a weekend to themselves? Will pleasurable pursuits lie dusty on our shelves? According to the theorist, if we read instead of roar, delay instead of debate, mesmerize instead of march, are we at fault?

If fault is to be found, I've a long finger directing itself instead, towards the owners, engineers, legal, governmental overseers of the DB "Estate." Where deceit met naiveté is where Wendell went wrong. Sure, we could have been more alert. But if abundant willingness to participate in town govt. had been our creed, those already overworked volunteer officials would have had more insight than their own and more energy to devote to making change. Would you not have spent evenings, weekends, holidays if you had known what would have come to be? Just ask that tricky little question. Now wake up, because DB is not the last insult our luck filled town will bear. (i.e., cell phone tower issues before the planning board etc.)

We might wonder where the hoards are when we're having good times debating bureaucracies, plotting strategies, yawning instead of sleeping. But when we take our necessary breaks, we don't want to feel guilty because neighbors on double duty are doubting our commitment. We want to thank those who work on our behalf, for life is long enough that we will be conscious of making things balance in the long run. If we are honest about who we are, the givers and the takers in our community, the takers could support better. But no law says they have to. In democracy, there is freedom to be self centered, freedom to not even vote, or worse, to be ignorant of what the candidate you just punched in, really stands for.

No! We do not deserve raw sewage deals, pollution, sickness, deceit. The entire system is weak, so to blame corruption on the last, lazy or laissez faire link is short sighted.

I prefer Utopian democracy where everyone must, by law, vote for equally funded candidates who have equal exposure, where everyone gets off their fat and leans against rank prevailing winds. We will be informed and have time to assert ourselves to nasty neighbors with dollar signs for pupils. Volunteer members of town govt. will be given respect for at least trying when they made non-retractable errors of judgment.

Until then... get up or get it.

Nina Keller

LETTER TO THE WENDELL POST READERS

Leonard Peltier is a Lakota-Anishinabe Indian, who has been imprisoned for about 25 years. Since 1998 a local support group has been working on his behalf. Yet after all this time, organizers of our local coffeehouse and others question his case's relevance to the Wendell community. To many, the case Leonard Peltier is removed from their lives; yet, for others, it represents racism and complacency of injustice in our government and neighborhoods.

What happened to cause Leonard Peltier and other members of the American Indian Movement to pick up rifles and to take a stand on the Pine Ridge Reservation to protect families of traditional Native Americans? The facts are that sixty individuals on this sparsely populated reservation were murdered over a three-year period. All these murders are still uninvestigated; yet the people of Pine Ridge knew the truth of this period that they call the "reign of terror." Dick Wilson, the Tribal Council Leader proudly called his group "GOONS" for Guardian of the Oglala Nation and were "intimidating" traditional Indians, who were resisting the corruption and destruction of their land. So, is it a surprise that 1/8 of the Pine Ridge Reservation was sold on the day of the incident at Oglala, when 2 FBI agents and an Indian were killed, for U.S. Uranium and Gold mining interests?

The Wendell Coffee House was founded to deny the passageway of Route 2 through our State Forest and the Millers River's fragile ecosystem. Most folks in Wendell are Caucasian and never had their lives threatened, which may be the reason why it is difficult for some to relate to the situation in South Dakota in the mid 1970's. Yet, time is passing by with injustice and environmental degradation all around. Perhaps, the freedom of Leonard Peltier is more related to us all than we realize. It is an issue that will never go away until resolved; yet the lessons to stand up for one's people and our land are connected to the dream of justice and freedom we can share in the principles of human rights and decency.

To learn more on this case read Prison Writings, which is at the library, and visit the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee's website: www.FreePeltier.org. People are welcomed to subscribe for email updates to lpsg_gne@yahoo.com.

All Our Relations,
Jonathan Mark

How do we interface with a magical place?

This adventure of buying Fiske Pond started for me the day I stepped out of the car there and got an intuitive flash that this place is supposed to be a healing center. For days I couldn't get it out of my head. I remembered talking to Nini at Old Home Day about our shared vision for someday creating a space where all of the amazing healing workers in town could come together, people could take classes or get body work or learn about organic gardening, and just spend time being in a very special place. Called her up, called some other friends, put in a bid on the property. It's all happening so fast we don't have answers yet for everybody's questions, but we want to let folks know where we're at so far.

Chickadees is now a non-profit corporation formed to teach healing arts in relation to the natural environment. For our first giant step we're scheduled to close on the property Dec 15, a little over two months after I got that idea that seemed to come from the land itself. We're working with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust to put the pond and wetlands there into conservation, and one of the stipulations of the conservation restriction will be year-round public access to the pond. The CR is permanent, which means the land will be preserved with public access forever, no matter how many hands it passes through. We plan to build a healing center for community use there, and homes for some of the people who work there along West Road. The pond will keep its wild feeling, and the many ecosystems there will be preserved. It's a Wendell happening. If you want to take part in the fundraising effort to purchase the conservation restriction talk to one of the Friends of Fiske Pond. Robbie Leppzer is chairing that committee, and they will be working on managing the public access once the CR is in place. You can reach him at 7926 or leppzer@turningtide.com. Fiske is a sand plain pond, so the water level fluctuates with the water table. This means the land around the pond is sometimes under water, sometimes high and dry, other times everything in between. It's an ecological wonderland of rare and endangered plants. This hundredtwenty-five or so acres also includes creeks, marshes, hemlock bogs, a spruce bog, forest swamp, forest grasslands, heather, pine woods, oak woods,mixed northern forest, bluestem prairie. It's like a New England collage, and a number of conservation groups are interested in working with Mount Grace to see the wildlife habitat there preserved. The pond itself was created by the farmer who dammed Fiske Creek to build a sawmill, and you can see the stonework from the old mill just past the dam. The farmhouse and the barn burned down in the sixties, and it's been a beloved swimming hole for thirty years. Lately the humans have been harder on it, and now the land needs some healing from too many vehicles and too many late nights. Volunteers have been busy cleaning up, and as the next stewards we'll be asking people to park down by the road and walk in, and leave the place to its own dreams at night. We believe the quiet in the woods speaks to the deepest wisdom in each of us. Fiske Pond has been a place of natural healing for a lot of people. What does this magical place say to you? We hope you won't be shy about pooling your visions with ours. If you also want to work on the healing center, please call me at 6818 or Nini Melvin at 7960.

--Claudia Scully

SLIME

SLIPPING LANDFILL GARNERS "DIRTY DOZEN" AWARD

On Nov. 30 the Toxics Action Center (TAC) awarded Wendell's DB Landfill one of 12 awards for environmentally hazardous sites across the state.

Kim DeFeo of TAC presented the award at the gate of the DB Landfill to Nancy Riebschlaeger, president of the Citizens Advisory Committee on the Landfill (CACL), as town officials and concerned residents stood witness. Kim said that the landfill was chosen because the collapse and downhill movement of the mounded debris became an urgent situation and because the landfill contains asbestos from Boston's "Big Dig".

Nancy emphasized that DB Enterprises, Inc. has a "long list of broken promises", and that they exceeded their height limitations in taking in more volume than they were permitted to accept.

Jim Duda, attorney for CACL, stated that the landfill was "an environmental injustice" and "an example of a poor, rural community bearing the brunt of other people's demolition waste, and ... literally being dumped on by the wealthier and more politically powerful." Conservation Commission Chair Charles Smith recalled that residents' concerns when the landfill was first proposed were dismissed by DB engineers. Charles stated, "If there are any lessons to this, it is that citizens cannot always trust the experts. Experts don't arrive fresh out of the egg with no earthly entanglements. He who pays the piper calls the tune, and that's as true of experts as it is of musicians."

Board of Health member Gloria Kegeles added that even the warnings of Wendell's expert, professional engineer Bob Leet, who was Chair of the Board of Health during most of the operating life of the landfill, were dismissed as well.

Gloria Kegeles

WENDELL REGIONALIZATION

Committee

This committee was appointed in January of 2000. The primary interest for our forming was the then recent disappointment over the direction that Mahar was going, with respect to the renovation of the facility, and the concerns that many parents have had over curriculum and behavioral issues at Mahar. In FY01, six out of ten Wendell seventh graders are at schools other than Mahar, by choice. If Amherst had not limited the choice openings, the number would have been higher.

WORK TO DATE

Principle options

1. Remain at Mahar
2. Join another 7-12 region
   -Amherst-Pelham
   -Frontier
   -Pioneer
3. Form a new region (possibly) with New Salem and Erving

Gathering Data

The Committee has sought information that will assist us in making a balanced recommendation. To that effort we have met with or communicated with officials from a number of Towns and organizations. Ideally, we would compare issues with each of the options;

1. Curriculum: what is available
2. Culture: what is expected, cultural diversity
3. Facility: what are class sizes, condition of rooms, labs
4. Safety: behavioral norms, supervision
5. extra curricular activities, transportation

ON-GOING CONSIDERATIONS

1. Timeliness/opportunity/costs
2. Realities of existing choice options
3. Upcoming request by Mahar

AGENDA

The Committee hopes that this forum would be an opportunity to reach some consensus of the Towns interests, in consideration of current events. We feel that this is a significant undertaking, one that will better served with a wide sampling of input. Please plan to attend.

Committee
Phil Delorey, Chair, 544 2236
Jan Stiefel, Secretary, 544 7186
Jean Daley, 544 0942

Alternates/attendees
Neil Gomberg,School Comm., 544 2475
Lee Trousdale, Finance Comm., 544 7335

OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE FOR OUR FUTURE CHILDREN

DOROTHY PEACOCK

Orange – Dorothy (Austin) Peacock, 93, of 383 E. River St. died 11-9-00 at Heywood Hospital in Gardner.

Born in Wendell, Feb. 17, 1907, she was the daughter of William and Evely (Beals) Austin. She grew up in the Wendell and Orange area, attended Orange High School and graduated from Cooley Dickinson School of Nursing in Northampton.

Dorothy was a nurse for several years in New York and New Hampshire. She lived in Boston after her marriage in 1931 to William D. Peacock, who died I 1982. She returned to Orange in 1940.

She was a homemaker and enjoyed reading and crocheting.

Survivors include two daughters, Kay Sheekey of Orange and Evelyn Goodwin of Templeton: a sister. Pauline Durling of Westmoreland, N.H.; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and several nephews and nieces.

Graveside services were held in South Cemetery with the Rev. Barbara Seamon of Central Congregation Church officiating. Memorial contributions are suggested to the charity of the donor's choice.

The Wendell Meeting House

A recent issue of the Wendell Post featured a poem on the front page about the Wendell Meeting House. It lamented the sad condition of the building. It may be interpreted as a commentary on the people of this town and what they care and don't care about. The building holds a central place in our town's social and geographical history. This poem made me realize how sad it is that this beautiful building has been neglected for so long.

Since then, thanks to the efforts of Sylvia Weatherby, Charles Smith, Jennifer Carpenter, and Jerry Eide and Molly Kaynor and many others, several important and encouraging things have occurred in regard to the Meetinghouse including:

- The formation of the non-profit organization Friends of the Meetinghouse.
- The deed to the church has been found clearly establishing ownership of the building belongs to the Trustees of the Congregational Church of Wendell.
- A preliminary building evaluation and estimate of costs to repair has been given by Jerry Eide.
- Committees have been formed to research and write bylaws, apply for grants, and set priorities for the building restoration.

In spite of all of this progress there is still a long way to go to restore the building. Should grant money become available for restoration of the Meetinghouse, the maintenance costs of insurance, heat, electricity, paint etc. will continue. There is no money for insurance or electricity at present. Unless there is sufficient and continuing public support for the purpose of the Meetinghouse, in financial and volunteer services, it is possible that it could return to its present state of disrepair.

We are often so busy planning our next trip out of town that we don't take the time to think what we could have in Wendell if there was a place to hold it in. Religious holidays, weddings, a neutral place to meet and talk, music recitals, and a place to display some of the historical artifacts and documents of town are all possible uses of a restored Meetinghouse. Why not invite our families to our community for the holidays rather than it always being the other way around? Christmas here in Wendell is a conceivable idea if the townspeople have the will. Please consider what you can give to the Friends of the Meetinghouse either in financial or volunteer services. Hopefully our status a non-profit (not yet established as of early November) will enable gifts to be made tax-deductible. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 171, Wendell, MA 01379

A meeting is scheduled for the Friends this Thursday Nov. 9 (7PM) at the Senior Center and probably another shortly after Thanksgiving. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Ken Holmberg

Bring back the trains !

In detailed discussion at its annual meeting on September 10, the Bear Mountain Preservation Association endorsed a resolution that "views with alarm" reports of a possible design change in the Route 2 Upgrade Project, said to extend four-lane highway westward to the point where Route 2 meets Route 122 in Orange. The towns of Athol and Orange are reportedly advocating for such a change, but BMPA argues that traffic volume does not warrant such expansion, nor will in the foreseeable future. In addition, with increased State Police patrolling, safety on the current road has markedly increased. Bear Mountain believes as well that the long-term solution to increasing Route 2 congestion is extension of commuter rail service westward from Gardner. All the local towns of this area were formerly connected by rail lines. Bear Mountain members will be active in alerting the community about the 4-Lane proposal, believing that it goes against the "quality" development that Orange and Athol sorely need.

WENDELL TOWN HISTORY

Jean Forward

As most of us know, there is no history of Wendell registered in the Library of Congress. There are two short histories in the 100th and 150th celebration booklets; no long version. A numbers of years ago, I began to collect data and organize the data into a possible Wendell history. But Wendell is a unique town, a unique and different type of conglomeration of people and pasts; it deserves a unique and different town history.

So, here's my proposal--that the town history of Wendell be a collaborative project involving anybody in/from Wendell who wants to participate. I've got a general outline:

1. Pre-history (10,000 BC-1500 AD) and C0ntact 1500-1620
2. Colonial Period 1620-1775
3. Federal Period 1775-1830
4. Early Industrial Period 1830-1870
5. Late Industrial Period 1870-1936
6. Early Modern Period 1936-1970
7. Redevelopment 1970-2000
8. A new millennium

If anybody is interested, contact Jean S. Forward at 544-7502 or forwardmangan@crystal-mtn.com

In regards to our Meeting House architecture, this poem, which is about that seldom seen space up in the attic of a church, under the bell, comes to mind:
-Molly

In The Belfry

By Fay Kaynor

Up there, the architectural bones
lie undisturbed
from space to space and
year to year.

But in a single hour—today—
a sunbeam entered through a crack
and, without permission of the court,
recorded centuries of dust
and all it had to say
of time and space
up there.

Up there, adzed oak
has shaped the space
in parallelograms,
triangles,
squares.

Up there, the months
have formed their years
in days of sun and rain—
immune to the fierce or joyous clanging of the bells
announcing weddings and funerals,
christenings
and wars.

Louis Traub

By Karen Traub

After a 5 year battle with Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma, my mother, Lois Traub died on September 26, 2000. My mom taught me that the 2 most important gifts we can give our children are: 1. Unconditional love and 2. Independence. She had such an abundance of emotional nourishment and support that she allowed me to share her as a "surrogate mom" to friends who were lacking this. I would like to share her one last time through some of the thoughts that came to me in the last weeks of her life.

P.S. My mother believed in the freedom of choice in life and death. In her memory I have donated the book Final Exit to the Wendell Free Library. This book is absolutely essential for anyone who, faced with a terminal illness would consider choosing a hastened, painless, dignified death.

❖ My mom

- ❖ My mom is my best friend.
- ❖ My mom is an oasis
- ❖ My mom is the most strong-willed person I know.
- ❖ My mom forged my character, nourished my strength, and wrote my term papers.
- ❖ Life is a thrilling, terrifying game of tag and my mom is home base
- ❖ My mom says "it will be all right" and I absolutely believe it.
- ❖ If I am a good mother, its because I've had a great mother.
- ❖ My mom is a mirror reflecting my soul in candlelight. The good she sees in me, I see in myself.
- ❖ My mom loves me unconditionally and when you are so full of good feeling, it is easy to share with others.
- ❖ My mom is a rock, a tree, the earth. She is the grounded place in me that knows….
- ❖ It will be all right.
- ❖ Karen Traub 12/00

RURAL DEVELOPMENT INC. LOOKS TO BUILD 7 HOUSES ON WEST ROAD

Rural Development, Inc. is a non-profit affiliate which currently has an option to purchase agreement on both sides of the street on West Road near Old Egypt Road. The sites have perked. Local boards have been informed of the plans. Anne Perkins, who spoke informally for the organization which provides opportunities for low income families to assist each other in building their new homes, reports that "things look good." The expectation is to build next spring. The organization has just completed a house in Wendell on the corner of Rush and Jennison Roads. Kathy Becker

Question: How many places in the world are named Wendell Depot?

Answer: One; location, Massachusetts.

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 01379

Minutes
Wendell Selectboard Fri. 1/12
August 16, 2000

In attendance were Selectboard Members Ted Lewis and Christine Heard and Town Coordinator Marjorie McGinnis.

Meeting convened at 7:04 p.m.

Harry Williston, Road Commissioner, dropped in to inform the Board of decisions made regarding the WRATS fees. Road Commissioners agreed to charge $1.00 per bag, $2.00 per year for use of the facility, and $1.00 per cubic foot minimum open-top fee. No decision concerning senior citizen discount was made.

Board reviewed and signed warrant.

September 26th as long as Town Clerk and Moderator are available.

Board reviewed letter received from Mahar informing them of the School Committee's vote to borrow $1.2 million for design of the new building. Board also signed a letter to the Orange Selectboard requesting feedback on their position concerning the plan.

Board signed a letter to the Recreation Commission thanking them for their work on Old Home Day.

Board reviewed and signed Laura Doughty's Town Hall use request. Laura has spoken to Christine regarding this request.

Board agreed to reappointment Mason Phelps as the Selectboard's representative to the Regional Planning Board.

Board reviewed notification received from Dept. of Housing and Community Development that the town's application for housing certification for Executive Order 418 was approved.

Board reviewed notification from Rep. Kulik that storm damage reimbursement was funded by the State.

Board reviewed letter from Rep Kulik regarding FY 2001 other state budget changes.

Board reviewed FY 2001 Cherry Sheets received from the Department of Revenue.

Board reviewed FY 2001 Chapter 70 Aid received by the regional schools from the Department of Education

Board reviewed the FRCOG overview of procurement law changes effective July 1, 2000.

Board reviewed letter received from Mass. Emergency Management Agency announcing November conference.

Board agreed that instead of the September All Board meeting the office will encourage town volunteers and employees to attend the Conflict of Interest seminar scheduled for October 3rd.

Board Was Informed That The Following Has Been Received in the Office:

- The following hearing notices:

August 30, 200 at 7:30FRCOG
- Planning Board hearing for bylaw changes - August 24th at 7:00 p.m.
- Conflict of Interest seminar at Swift River - October 3rd at 6.30 p.m.

Description of Mass. Municipal's services to members towns

- Library Construction grant announcement
- Dept. of Revenue municipal law seminar announcement
- Regional housing forum on Executive Order 418 at Green field Community college

Packet on Economic development and industrial corporations received form the FRCOG

- Veterans' services report received from Senator Rosenberg
- Monthly report from FCSWMD
- Grant listing from FRCOG
- MMA Legislative Bulletin on the FY 2000 and FY 2001 state budgets

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes
Wendell Selectboard
August 30, 2000

In attendance were Selectboard Members Ted Lewis, Christine Heard and Katharine Bentley, and Town Coordinator Marjorie McGinnis.

Meeting convened at 7:01 p.m.

Board signed the warrant.

Board met with Gloria Kegeles, resident, who requested the Board add an article to the warrant for the upcoming special town meeting (STM) dictating the administration of the recycling and transfer station.

Board reviewed a letter from Fran Doughty expressing his concerns for changes made on town land and buildings without avenues for public input and providing information on the dangers of pesticide spraying for West Nile Virus. Board discussed the suggestions and asked Margie to respond to his letter.

Board reviewed an additional letter received from Mahar clarifying article wording for upcoming STM and discussed the project proposed by Mahar. Agreed on an October 11, 2000 STM date separate from the September 28th STM so that it will be after Orange's town meeting and referendum vote

At 7:30, Board attended a hearing for the upcoming CDBG work to be completed on Lockes Village Road. Culverts will be replaced this fall, and the bridge will be replaced next summer.

Board discussed the ongoing audit and agreed to send a letter to Thomas Scanlon, Town Auditor, requesting an update and the quickest closure possible.

Board received information from the Board of Health opposing the use of pesticides to protect against West Nile Virus through mosquito control

Board reviewed a packet received from John Gates, Town Counsel, regarding the Paul Rich case.

QUABBIN MEDIATION
CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING
Located in the Orange District Court Building
P.O. Box 544 - Athol, MA - 01331 - 544-6142

Board received information from the Assessors that Ken Holmberg has been hired as the Assessors' Assistant. Board requested additional information concerning open hours and meeting times of the Assessors.

Board reviewed the Board of Health's Agreement to hire Glen Ayers as a new Health Agent. Ted signed the agreement.

Board reviewed a request received from the Planning Board to appoint Robert Shulman to fill that Board's last opening. Board signed the appointment

Board reviewed a letter to the Franklin Regional Housing Authority drafted by Margie stating the Town's desire to keep Housing Rehabilitation funds loaned prior to FY 1992 that are paid back and for the Housing Authority to reloan funds that are paid back after FY 1992 for new Wendell projects. Board signed the letter.

Board made a list of issues to discuss with Senator Rosenberg, who is attending their next meeting. Board listed Title V and problems with septic systems, funding for town building repairs, beaver control, funding the DB Landfill, Meetinghouse repairs, Depot Bridge repair and their desire for the Senator's office to better publicize funding awards in the newspapers.

Ted reported that DEP is currently seeding over the DB landfill to help stabilize it, although DEP does not plan to complete closure. The landfill is now stabilized

Board reviewed a letter received from Atty. Gates regarding the closure of the Paul Rich court hearing

Board reviewed a letter requesting feedback on the idea of combining the Franklin County Inspection program with the Council of Governments and agreed to ask the Building Inspector for input. Board expressed their concern that if the agencies did combine, then towns who do not belong to the inspection program, but belong to the Council of governments will be able to influence decisions made in the inspection program and that Wendell would lose its equally weighted vote with the inspection program.

Board reviewed additional information received on the Mahar building project and an invitation to a meeting on October 13th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the plan with other towns and the Superintendent's office. Christine and Katharine will attend

Board reviewed a letter from Mahar requesting that a Selectboard member attend a meeting to designate the Selectboard representative for Mahar's negotiations of their employee contracts. Christine will go.

Board received information from the Department of Revenue that the Town will be receiving and additional $17,031 in excess lottery aid for FY 2000.

Board reviewed procedure that must be followed in order for excess Chapter 70 funds to be made directly to the School Committee without town appropriation.

Board discussed their membership at the Franklin County Selectmen's Association and agreed to continue their membership.

Board reviewed a letter from Senator Rosenberg's Office informing them of Tropical Storm Floyd reimbursement to be received. The Town also has been invited to a MEMA training on the reimbursement process that Margie will attend

Christine gave an update on the Town Hall Area Septic Committee. The Committee has feedback from most homeowners regarding their septic systems, and Jim Slavas is creating a master map with soil types added. The feasibility of leaving the tight tank as a permanent solution was discussed. Margie will look through the files to see if the Dept. of Environmental Protection placed restrictions on the use of the tight tank when it was approved.

Board reviewed the response sent to the Police Chief regarding his wage increase request for officers.

Board reviewed the response sent to the abutters of the Soderquist land.

Board reviewed a letter received from Verizon announcing the end of their strike and their new company name.

Board discussed the option of selling surplus property and discussed holding an auction in the future.

Christine announced her appreciation for working with the other members of the Selectboard and the Town Coordinator.

Board reviewed information from Nancy Reibschlaeger that 22 citizens have petitioned to be interveners in the DB Demolition Landfill administrative appeal.

Board met with the Finance Committee and discussed Mahar's building proposal. The group agreed to send a joint letter to the Orange Selectboard and Finance Committee to more strongly express their desire to fund the construction phase together with the design phase to ensure success of the project and reimbursement for the design phase. Margie will draft a letter and forward to Lee, Dale and Katharine for review. Final letter will also be sent to other towns in the district, school committee and superintendent's office.

The Boards also discussed the wage request received from the Police Department and the need to review wages in town as a whole before next budget season. Finance Committee also informed the Board of their support for excess Chapter 70 funds to go directly the school committees if the request is received.

Board discussed having a working meeting with the Planning Board, Building Inspector and Assessors to review the zoning bylaws and review how best to enforce them. Agreed to meet on October 4, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.

Board Was Informed That The Following Has Been Received in the Office:

- Assessors Course 101 training
- Franklin County Solid Waste Management District meeting minutes and agenda
- Membership notice for Franklin County CDC
- United Nations Day Celebration invitation to participate
- MassDevelopment Brownfields training
- Massachusetts Housing Partnership 1999 Annual Report
- Recycling Box Newsletter

Adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

September 13, 2000 Meeting convened at 7:04 p.m.

In attendance were Selectboard Members Ted Lewis, Christine Heard and Katharine Bentley, and Town Coordinator Marjorie McGinnis.

Board signed the warrant.

Board discussed Town Hall usage and reconfirmed that renters of the Town Hall need to complete the proper forms and come to the Selectboard to have their requests approved.

Board reviewed the warrant for the 9/28/00 special town meeting and discussed the Mahar construction project. The Board has received a letter from Mahar rescinding the vote for planning and construction funds because Mahar hopes to get a better reimbursement rate after January 1st. Article is still on the warrant but can be passed over. Ted agreed to call New Salem Selectboard chair and ask them to also approach Orange to support funding both design and construction in one vote.

Board also reviewed a letter received from Mahar informing the town that excess Chapter 70 funds, $12,423.88, will be returned to Wendell through reduced assessments in FY 2001.

Board reviewed a letter from Verizon announcing new area codes.

Board discussed their previously planned meeting with Planning Board, Assessors and Building Inspector, which was scheduled for the same night as the Planning Board's meeting with the Regional Planning Dept. to see the build out analysis completed for Executive Order 418 compliance. Board rescheduled their meeting for October 18th, 2000.

Board met with Susan VonRanson and Kuumba Piazza regarding requests to hold classes in the Town Hall Susan was approved for Monday yoga and Kuumba was approved for Tuesday dance and Wednesday yoga classes.

Board reviewed a letter received from L. Seal LaMadeline, Dorthee, Tashi Treechild and Nancy Reibschlaeger regarding pesticide use for West Nile Virus and agreed to forward the letter to the Board of Health. Margie will respond.

Board reviewed the Chapter 90 award letter received from Mass Highways, which is $104,816.68 for the year.

Board reviewed a letter from the Dept. of Revenue informing us that our Field Representative has changed to Terry Williams.

Board reviewed the upcoming lien list from Tax Collectors, which includes outstanding accounts from 1993-1995

Board reviewed a request from the Cultural Council to appoint Gail Krutka and Wanita Sears and signed the appointments.

Board discussed a request received from the Police Chief for advice regarding being a character witness in a trial. The Board agreed to advise against the action as the police chief, but had no input, if he wants to do it as a personal friend.

Board reviewed a request received from the Police Chief to meet and interview a prospective new officer. Board agreed to arrange a meeting.

Board reviewed Margie's upcoming attendance at a conference in Nebraska on Community Forestry. The Dept. of Environmental Management invited her to attend and will pay travel expenses and the Arbor Day Foundation will pay the conference fee.

Board discussed the land takings needed for the Davis Road bridge project. The Order of Taking has been reviewed by Atty. Gates and needs some revisions.

Board reviewed a copy of regulations received regarding veterans' districts.

Board reviewed an invitation received from Franklin County Technical School to attend a community involvement day.

Board discussed their Clerk's continued absence from meetings. Christine and Margie will review the situation.

Board Was Informed That The Following Has Been Received in the Office:

- Swift River School minutes and agenda
- Information Guideline Release and Bulletin from Department of Revenue regarding Ed. Reform exemptions and property tax exemptions
- 2000 Mass. Historic Conference
- Mass. Clean Water Council meeting
- Baystate Roads trainings
- Housing Partnership Network newsletter
- Mass Interchange Newsletter
- Access New England Newsletter
- Norfolk County Works Newsletter

Adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Minutes
Wendell Selectboard
September 27, 2000

Meeting convened at 7:03 p.m.

Present were members Ted Lewis, Chair, Christine Heard and Katharine Bentley and Town Coordinator Marjorie McGinnis.

Board signed the warrant and reviewed minutes from previous meetings.

Board met with Charlie Ricko, Police Officer, and Jim Petit, who is interested in becoming a police officer. Mr Petit is a construction manager who lives in Athol. He has been interested in working as a part-time officer for several years. Board agreed to hire him as an officer after he has completed the required training. He will have a six-month probationary period to familiarize himself with the Wendell community.

Board met with Pamela Stevens and Bobbie Brown who requested to use the Town Hall for a reggae dance on October 27th. Divya Shinn will sponsor the event. Ms. Stevens has spoken to the renter for earlier in the night to coordinate timing. Board agreed to the request, and Margie will notify the police department of the event because it will have over 50 people.

Board discussed reviewing the Town Hall Rental Policy and agreed to take copies home to review and revise at the next meeting. Christine has spoken with Bruce Whittier to ask if the plumbing is modern.

Board review Serena Stone's Town Hall usage. Ms. Stone has not paid her rental fee for several weeks. Board asked Margie to call her and tell her that she needs to pay at least once per month and she needs to become current by October 4th in order to continue to use the hall

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Board discussed the continued absence of their Selectboard Clerk and agreed to have Christine talk to the Clerk April Myers about the situation.

Board reviewed the Massachusetts Municipal Association Regional meeting announcement received.

Christine reported that she and Katharine have inspected all 5 auto repair license holders. Follow-up letters will be sent to R.E. Pierce and Mormon Hollow Auto to ensure that conditions of the licenses are met.

The Board discussed the Special Town Meeting scheduled for the 28th Margie has prepared the motions and information for the Board members.

Board Was Informed That The following Items Have Been Received in the Office:

- FCSWMD minutes and agenda
- Board of Health training offered by FRCOG
- Massachusetts Information Technology Annual Report
- Citizen Forester Newsletter
- Governor's Conference on Housing

Adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Minutes
Wendell Selectboard
October 11, 2000

Meeting convened at 7:01 p.m.

Present were members Ted Lewis, Chair, Christine Heard and Katharine Bentley and Town Coordinator Marjorie McGinnis.

Board signed the warrant.

Board reviewed the agreement for MRF recyclables reimbursement funds to stay at the Solid Waste Management District and signed the agreement at the request of the Highway Department.

Board reviewed and signed Chapter 90 Memorandum of Agreements for upcoming funding allotments.

Board met with Senator Rosenberg and one of his assistants and reviewed the following issues:

- Title V and the problems it causes for landowners and municipal buildings
- Beaver control issues, for which the state has passed new legislation allowing local Boards of Health to review cases and issue trapping permits
- Funding for municipal building reconstruction projects, including the future of the Meetinghouse
- Wendell Depot Bridge opening expected before Thanksgiving
- DB Landfill clean-up and funding for the emergency work
- September 99 Storm reimbursement, copy of packet given to the Senator to support the Town's application
- Payment in Lieu of Taxes schedule, which needs to be reevaluated after next year

Board met with Fran and Laura Doughty. Fran expressed his desire for public hearings or town meetings prior to changes made to public roads or buildings. Margie will work with the Road Commissioners to create a list of upcoming projects to share with the public. Also the WRATS vote passed at the last Special Town Meeting was discussed, which Laura has learned from the Atty. General's Office is not binding. It is unknown if there is a file of passed bylaws exists.

Board met with Kaymarion Raymond, Anne Perkins, Dave Richard and Cassidy Mellis, all of whom live on Gate Lane. Gate Lane is currently having problems with drivers of 4-wheelers and ATV's that are utilizing the road, creating disturbing noise and making the road unsafe. Board asked for a written summary of the issue and agreed to help the residents to the extent that they can.

Board met with Anne Perkins of Rural Development, Inc. (RDI), who requested that the Board support RDI's application to purchase land on West Street and to build 8 low-income houses. Board signed a support letter for the project.

Board reviewed the Davis Road Order of Taking and approved the Order as long as Atty. Gates does not require any changes.

Board discussed a phone call received from the Orange Selectboard concerning potential changes to ambulance service.

Ted discussed information he received from Lake Grove School concerning the School's interest in purchasing Fiske Pond.

Board reviewed the Plumbing Inspector's request to change rates for inspections. Margie will research amounts paid by other towns and ask the Plumbing Inspector to explain his rate schedule.

Board received a resignation letter received from April Myers as the Selectboard Clerk with regrets. One person has shown interest in the position but has not yet sent a resume to the Office.

Board reviewed a letter received from the Office of the Attorney General urging the Town to use the $15,000 available to them for technical assistance at DB Landfill and agreed to wait until the closure process begins again Margie will send a letter with this decision to the Atty. General's Office

Board was reminded of Friday, Oct. 13th meeting at Mahar. Christine and Katharine are attending.

Katharine announced a Route 2 hearing scheduled for October 19th at 7:00 p.m.

Christine reported that she had followed up with enforcing auto repair license conditions. Mike Wing has complied and Christine has sent him a thank you letter. Board signed letters to Mormon Hollow Auto and Robin Pierce reminding them to comply as a condition of their license renewals.

Board discussed the lack of town meeting certifications received for this year. The last certification received was for the November 1999 Special Town Meeting. Board agreed to send a letter to the Town Clerk requesting that the certifications be completed.

Board reviewed a DEP mailing on Technical Assistance Grants available for expert advice on hazardous waste disposal sites.

Board reviewed a Dept. of Housing and Community Development grant announcement of Soft Second Loan program. The town participates in this program through the Regional Housing Authority.

Arsenault

Towing & Recovery Service

107 Wendell Depot Road
Wendell Depot, MA 01380 978-544-9955

Board reviewed a Dept. of Revenue announcement for sewer rate relief funding, which the Town is not eligible for at this time.

Board Was Informed That The following Items Have Been Received in the Office:

- Conservation Commission legal notice of hearing
- New Salem/Wendell School Committee agenda and minutes
- DEM's Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program Annual Report
- Procurement Bulletin
- Franklin County CDC Community Quarterly Newsletter
- Franklin County Home Care Corp Quarterly Newsletter
- Periscope Newsletter
- MCConnections Newsletter

Adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Minutes
Wendell Selectboard
October 25, 2000

Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Present were members Ted Lewis, Chair, Christine Heard and Katharine Bentley and Town Coordinator Marjorie McGinnis.

Board signed the warrant.

Board signed the election warrant.

Board asked Margie if town meeting certifications had been received from the Town Clerk after their letter. The certifications had not been received and Margie has received a letter from Mass. Highway Department (MHD) threatening to withhold Chapter 70 funding if a certified copy of the Highway Department budget for FY 2001 is not received Board signed the corresponding paperwork back in June when it was first received A copy of the MHD letter has been sent to the Town Clerk and she has agreed to at least do the Highway Department budget by Thursday, Oct. 26th. Board agreed to send Town Clerk another letter asking her to come to their next meeting to discuss this and learn if she needs additional help or if another issue hinders her completion of the work.

Board discussed the need for a clerk. Margie will post the position and Christine will again put the announcement in the Swift River Current.

Katharine gave an update on the Meetinghouse. Residents have created Friends of the Meetinghouse group with officers and sub-committees. They plan to get non-profit status and create bylaws. Katharine is participating in the group and can keep the Board informed.

Board agreed to cancel their November 22nd meeting and reschedule one on another week if needed

Board met with Tom Lavoie, Regional Director for the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and Bryant Stewart, Supervisor of Wendell State Forest to discuss the establishment of an advisory committee for Wendell State Forest. Also in attendance were Bob Ellis, Heather Lenz, Glen Ayers, Mason Phelps, and Charles Smith. Mr. Lavoie expressed his interest in working with the

Town of Wendell to do what is best for the State Forest. DEM has developed guidelines for advisory committees. Lake Wyola has an existing committee and since the oversight of the two parks is intertwined, Mr. Lavoie suggested that Wendell residents join this committee. The group discussed methods of ensuring that Wendell State Forest issues get sufficiently addressed, including having a Wendell State Forest subcommittee or separating into its own committee at a later date. Discussed larger issues at Wendell State Forest including the eutrophication of Ruggles Pond, if some interventions are not completed, and the placement of electricity, possibly through a solar system, next year. Margie collected names and address of resident who would like to participate; she will fax them to Mr. Lavoie so that he can schedule a meeting.

Board discussed the establishment of an Advisory Committee to help them make decisions on repairs to the Town Office Building. Agreed to invite Fran Doughty, Charlie Bowes, Eric Wight, and Michael Idoine to participate. Ted and Margie will also serve.

Margie informed the Board that she and Katharine put together a letter to the owner of the land that will be taken for the Davis Road bridge project. The letter informs the owner of the market value of the land and asks the owner to respond if he is planning to dispute this action. Response should be received by November 8th meeting.

Board discussed an invitation received from the Mass. Municipal Management Association to attend a conference in November on Board/Manager relations. No board members are available to attend.

Board reviewed a packet received form Senator Rosenberg's office regarding the recently passed Community Preservation act.

Board was reminded of Saturday, October 28th meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Board reviewed DB Landfill monitoring information received from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This information will be passed onto the Board of Health with the caution that DEP does not consider this a public document at this point, as litigation may be pending.

Board reviewed plumbing and gas inspection rates of neighboring towns, which is the same as those proposed by Wendell Plumbing Inspector. Margie will call the Plumbing Inspector to tell him that the Board agrees to his change of rates.

Board discussed the question of who has authority to decide fees at the WRATS. Annual Town Meeting of 1997 changed the Highway Department into a Department of Public Works, but no mention of a Board of Public Works was made. Ted and Christine will call Anne Zak and Margo Culley to ask what their memory is. Margie will continue to research the laws.

Board reviewed a letter received from Donald and Janee Stone requesting the Town pay for beaver deceiver equipment they want to install. Margie will seek input from the Highway Department and Road Commissioners and send a memo to the Stones reporting such.

Board reviewed the summary and map received for the residents of Gate Lane and agreed to seek input from Police Department and Highway Department. Also will send copies to DEM and MDC to ask for input. Margie will send a memo to Gate Lane residents reporting such.

Board discussed the unapproved use of the Town Hall for a Friends of the Meetinghouse Meeting a few weeks ago. Information received by Christine indicated that Chris Marano used his Coffeehouse key and thought Anne Zak would reserve the space. Board agreed to send Chris Marano a letter reminding him of the rental policy.

Board discussed the frequent misuse of the Town Hall and agreed it may be time to change the locks. Margie and Ted will research security locks that have keys that cannot be duplicated. The Board also discussed instituting a $25 key deposit for frequent renters who want to keep a key. Margie will talk to Joy about the situation.

Board Was Informed That The following Items Have Been Received in the Office:

- Guide to state of emergency procedures received from MEMA
- Fall 2000 Hazardous Waste Collection report received from FCSWMD
- Grant packet on enhancing public lakes and pond received from DEM
- Letter from Peterborough, NH asking if we want to purchase replicas of the Boston Globe cane
- Invitations to:
  - Growing Together strategic planning event sponsored by the Dept, of Food and Agriculture
  - Franklin County Selectmen's Association quarterly meeting
  - Western Mass Enterprise Fund annual meeting
  - Miller River Watershed Non-point Source Pollution Assessment kick-off celebration
  - Swearing in ceremony for the new Commissioner of Mass Commission Against Discrimination
  - ADA training in Boston
  - Stormwater management training
- FCSWMD minutes and agenda
- Mass Housing Finance Agency Update
- Procurement Bulletin

Adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Zoning Violations Meeting

At a meeting on October 28, the Selectboard, Planning Board, Board of Assessors, and Building Inspector, met to discuss zoning violations in Wendell. Article VI of the Town's Zoning Bylaws allows trailers as temporary dwellings only with a special permit required from the Planning Board. There should be only one dwelling per lot. Individual dwellings should have no more than two unregistered motor vehicles. It was agreed that these regulations should be enforced by the Building Inspector. This discussion will be continued at a future date (possibly December).

NEWS FROM THE SELECT BOARD
Consistent Application of Bylaws and Building Code

In a recent meeting with the Select Board, Planning Board, Board of Assessors and the Building Inspector, a need to refocus all boards on established standards was expressed. It was generally felt that town bylaws and zoning bylaws are not always enforced, that an attitude of "live and let live" prevails in Wendell. Unfortunately, this has led to unfair taxation and loss of revenue to the the town.

Members of the above mentioned boards considered first what are the ultimate goals of our zoning bylaw. As stated in Article I of the Zoning Bylaw, some of the goals are:

- to promote the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of Wendell ...;
- to lessen congestion in the streets;
- to provide adequate light and air; ...
- to regulate land uses that have an impact on the Town's natural, physical and fiscal capabilities; ...
- to preserve wildlife habitat;
- to protect water quality and supply;
- to encourage appropriate use of the land; ...
- to reduce hazards;
- to prevent the overcrowding of land;
- to conserve the value of land and buildings; ...
- to preserve the ecology and rural nature of the town.

With Article I as a guiding principle, town officials are looking to maintain the ecology and rural nature of our town as well as its character. Working together with our citizens, we plan to begin a campaign of gentle consistency in order to bring all structures of Wendell into compliance with the Bylaw and the Building Code, as needed.

Specifically, we will be looking at the following areas of non-compliance:

- illegal structures, e.g., unpermitted mobile homes, structures built too close to boundary lines or to the road, structures over 120 square feet built without a building permit;
- non-permitted materials , i.e., unregistered vehicles (above the limit of two per household) and junk materials;
- existing, conforming and non-conforming uses of land, e.g., businesses started without necessary permits;
- unpermitted changes of use of land, e.g., using seasonal camps as full time residences.

In addition, the Planning Board and Select Board will be looking to create more precise definitions for previously unregulated uses, e.g., the construction of temporary structures (aluminum poles and canvas or plastic); the use of tractor trailers as storage units.

The concept of gentle consistency will be taken seriously. Town officials will be looking into grants and community involvement to assist low income citizens to comply with town bylaws. Through encouragement and support for the owners of land and buildings in Wendell, we hope for a consistent approach to all land uses and structures. In so doing we will maintain the natural beauty and rural character of Wendell, while ensuring that all taxpayers pay a fair and equitable share of our large tax burden.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, December 2, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.** in the Senior Center. Everyone is welcome to attend; indeed we are eager for citizen input. Please come!

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at the
Diemand Farm
Come visit our newly remodeled store
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OLD JOE DROZDOWSKI

He grew like mold on the crust of his cabin, wily and watchful, mouth drawn askew to one corner, stretched impossibly beneath his chin, while he growled and cursed louder than bear meat, his eye always cocked for deer. In his last years his leg went bad; too hungry for trout to retire his pole, he stumbled on wet rocks, and the Mormon Hollow Brook crushed his knee in its gurgling jaws, and chuckled at him, as he had chuckled at beaver and mink, caught in the jaws of his traps.

He didn't talk, he roared; he filled the woods and ledges with his trumpeting wisdom. He spent most of his life within the few square miles on the fringes of his cabin, and he knew them better than anyone, better maybe than the backs of his own splotched hands; he'd taken rabbit, deer, beaver, mink, squirrel and God know what, sometimes surviving for years together on what he could find alone -- so often alone, with the hunt.

He bequeathed to me his fishing spots; had me scampering through the forest to flush out deer, when his legs couldn't carry him to them. He put a gun in my hand and had me shoot. Proud to nail a tree dead center, I was grateful I saw no deer.

He could make a harmonica spit and dance. He could twinkle and croon a merry tune like few men I've known, and I've known quite a few, come famous for crooning. "Make someone happy, make just one person happy, and YOU will be happy TOO."

Virtually unschooled, his name on the mailbox was painstakingly lettered (the "J" and the "z" backwards) in blue paint, the name running down the box with little regard for the horizontal.

His knees must have been raw from slapping.

One summer afternoon seven years ago, the empty quart bottles lining up on his rickety table by Lyons Brook, running low and lazy with the heat and drought, he swore he would "live to the millen'um, and then as God is my judge --" and he smacked his hands together and pinched his rifle eyes squarely down to his chin with the corner of his mouth, and fixed me in his sights, so that his words might find their mark, "I believe that will be all."

Early in 2000, a month or two before he died, I stopped by his trailer, always rank with the odors of his life, unplumbed and unapologetic, and I mentioned the millennium and asked him how he was. He cocked his eyes at me, and for the next two hours he predicted my death, by car crash or god-awful accident, as if he were clairvoyant, seeing my tragic, untimely end. He pushed it. He could easily hurt, put ill-at-ease -- like sometimes we would get too close, too affectionate almost, and in an instant he would turn vulgar and call me "cunt" repeatedly, in a bellowing voice that sent me shuddering disgusted to the car, while he roared and slapped his knees -- and this insistence on my impending doom was like a mild case of that rough teasing, to test and rile me. I told him, after each volley of his cruel rounds, that it would be fine, that I was in no hurry to die, but it would be okay; and I smiled, sucking up every last drop of Buddha conviction and inherent faith I could muster, to flash back into the blazing muzzle of his face, and after each response he'd roar.

I got him good that day. No shuddering or disgust, only the firm resolve to embrace the lunges of an old man's quarry dance with death, until his knees were raw with slapping, and his shotgun eyes were read and running, and his armchair creaked and quaked. That day, in the hunt at the edge of Darkness, I slayed the old geezer, and his laughter stretched the seams of his cabin, and two months later he was dead.

Old Joe, the mighty hunter, is dead. Long live Old Joe.

Court Dorsey

Things get "Sticky" at W.R.A.T.S.

Wendell is a beautifully unique town which prides itself in being different. Yet, there are some differences which are very costly. Since 1972, the price for trash disposal has not increased, whereas each year the cost for Wendell to transfer waste rises. This is why the fees at W.R.A.T.S. are going to slightly increase.

The system for trash disposal (household waste and open top items) will be changing as of Saturday, September 9, 2000. We will have a conversion from the index cards to stickers, which can be purchased by attendants. Residents with pre-paid index cards will be credited with stickers. Each sticker will be $1.00 and will be used for compactor disposal. There will no longer be half and/or full "unit" sizes for trash bags. **Any** bag up to 30 gallons will need its own sticker in order to throw it into the compactor. A bag which is larger than 30 gallons will need two stickers. The debate on how full a bag is or isn't will no longer occur. Whether a bag is empty or filled to the top, it will need a sticker. For those of you who do not use bags, you will need to show the attendant your sticker and then proceed to dispose of your trash. As far as open top use is concerned, the free use will be stopped. There will be a $1.00 minimum regardless of how small the item you are "open topping" and the rate will be $1.00 per cubic foot. The final conversion will be the newly implemented permit system. A $2.00 permit purchase per year, will allow Wendell residents to enter W.R.A.T.S. and utilize the facility. Only residents can purchase the permits. These permits will be tags you hang on your rearview mirror.

The purpose for these changes is simple. The Town of Wendell is not even covering one-third of its operation costs of the waste side alone. We need people to pay for what they are throwing away. This will help to cover more of our costs, but also we hope that it will encourage recycling from those that currently are not doing so. The town realizes that it must share the expenses to run W.R.A.T.S., but a better balance needs to be set. We understand there will be an adjustment period, but we want to work with you, not against you. All residents cooperation and understanding is greatly appreciated.

Susan Russo

Recycling Barn Manager

Wendell Depot, Our "Historic Downtown"

From an interview with Anna Hartjens

By Kathy Becker

"Old fashioned and progressive, tolerant,down here we are tolerant of each other. When we discuss things, we get both views: liberal, conservative, Democrat and Republican". That is the tone set by Postmaster Anna Hartjens at the Wendell Depot Post Office and store. All morning, and again in the afternoon, a cluster of cars surrounds the familiar old picturesque wood frame building. Many shoes and boots have beat their rhythm across its aged wooden porch planks. The screen door creaks, there is the smell of pouring coffee, another customer has come in.

"Gary, don't you think we are more tolerant down here?" says Anna, in her Dutch lilted accent. Gary Amiro and his wife, Sherrie Trahan, run Jolly Walkers.com. in the house behind the big rock in the Depot, the rock that is always the backdrop for a decorative seasonal theme. They make custom-made leather clown shoes, and sell them all over the world. "The internet is my business really. We are busier every year." The business was started by Sherrie's aunt and uncle, Anthony and Grace Evens, then called Big Foot. Gary answers Annie's question about how he sees Wendell Depot, home of Jolly Walkers, by saying, "Good coffee. Good people." Anna agrees, and adds, "good bread." She makes it homemade.

Wendell Depot is also home to a third business, Anderson Heating and Plumbing, operated by Mike Anderson.

"Wendell Depot is its own area. It did not always belong to Wendell. It used to be that the other post office was a substation." Anna relates that in the 60's, all the mail for the town was delivered to the Depot P.O. Postmaster Lillian Gibbs sorted all the mail, and Jessie Wetherby would take the mail up the hill. "Now, sometimes people think this is not a real Post Office. But it is! I always hear stories about when it was so populated down here." Anna, (pronounced Ünny) has collected many pictures and stories of Wendell Depot when it was a thriving, booming village before the hurricane and flood of 1938 washed almost all of it away, including the big power plant and rows of houses. "Myron and Lil Gibbs house was one that was left standing, which is why the P.O. moved into there. Then that got taken by Rte. 2", recalls Annie. "Lil and Myron moved the P.O. several times. They had a little package store in this building. They got rid of the package store, and moved the P.O. to the ½ of the building where it is now." She has pictures, of the first Post Office in the Putnam Store. That burned. Its foundation is slightly visible across from the current Post Office. Then Annie says the P.O. moved to the Brown's house, which was taken out by the flood.

With its power station, railroad station and many homes gone, Wendell Depot did not die. Dreams and pride are alive and well; witness the new sign "Welcome to Wendell Depot". In fact, this sign is so desirable that the first one got stolen. Ken Carvil made the sign and post, put it up on a Thursday, got covered in poison ivy. Tuesday morning the sign was gone. He made a new one, which greets one and all alike. Selectman Ted Lewis is taking donations for 5 or 6 flag poles. People are chipping in to improve the looks of Wendell Depot. "We'd like to spruce up the area, plant some flowers around the sign, put a flag pole on the little common, maybe a picnic table...wouldn't that be nice? That's what the money from the sale of postcards is going for", grins Anna.

Anna has taken her favorite historic Wendell Depot pictures and made 6 postcards which She sells out of the store for a dollar each. The post cards are worth buying just to hear the stories about each one. Anna is full of stories. She married into an old Wendell town family and was welcomed with enough heartiness to soften the blow of homesickness for Holland. Get down to the Depot. Snap up those cards! Share a story Have a cup of jo. Find out what is going on.

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Pretty much all the honest truth telling there is in the world today is done by children.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

Oliver Wendell Homes was the son of Judge Oliver Wendell, after whom this town of Wendell was named.

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ON LOW-IMPACT ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

By Karen Saunders

As a young adult, I am very concerned about the environmental state of affairs on this lovely planer Earth. Unlike many people, I have not been jaded or numbed to the situation, and have passionately sought out and designed technologies that have a lower environmental impact than our standard modern appliances. Here are two technologies that accomplish this.

The Acabando Basket ("Acabado" means "finishing" in Spanish) can finish cooking a variety of dishes by the effectiveness of its insulative qualities alone! The Acabando Basket is essentially a tightly woven coil of bedding materials (blankets, sheets, etc.) and t-shirts. It is round, symbolically meaningful, aesthetically pleasing, and efficient.

A well-made basket reduces the use of fuel or electricity in cooking considerably! Here is one example of how the basket would be used. Say you are cooking a pot of brown rice. You would bring the water and rice to a boil and then put the pot in the basket. Come back in an hour and the rice will be hot and ready to eat!

Not only does it reduce fuel and electricity use, it also frees up your time to do other things while your food is cooking (no burned food!) Leisurely, no stress cooking! More quality creative times with the kids, your friends, your significant other, or yourself!

The foods that the Acabando Basket cooks are basically any food that needs to be brought to a boil and then simmered (i.e. grains, beans, soups, and stews, steaming vegetables). This basket also keeps hot foods hot for about an hour, after which the food will cool off slowly.

I am available to teach people how to make their own Acabando Baskets. Baskets can also be made to order.

The Rocket Stove, developed at Aprovecho Research Center in Oregon, has comparable cooking efficiency to that of a gas or electric stove burner, but has greater fuel efficiency than both because it is fueled by TWIGS! Outrageous! It is all in the design of the stove, which is made of tin cans, metal repair tape and ashes.

Those of you who have concerns about how to meet your cooking needs in an emergency situation (i.e. electricity blackouts or fuel shortages) will find that this stove saves the day. Though it is primarily and outdoor cook stove, it won't keep you in the cold long if you are just bringing food or water to a boil or stir-frying. Using the Acabando Basket and Rocker Stove together will save you a lot on expensive cooking fuel and you don't need electricity to run either one!

I am available to teach people how to make the stoves or can have one made for you if you are physically unable to make one.

I hope I have peaked your interest in low-environmental impact technology. It is fun and empowering to make and use in daily life. I hope everyone in this town gets into it. We still have a chance at saving this beautiful planer, and a great place to start is by changing the way we meet our needs at home. Call me with your questions at (413) 259-0007, leave a message for Karen Saunders.

Jeffrey Bauman
Attorney At Law

P.O. Box 1003
Wendell, MA 01379-1003
978-544-7696

199 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344
(Rte 2A on Erving/Orange town line)
978-544-1818 fax: 978-544-5268

RESTAURANT REVIEW

RONZO'S BISTRO

My urban visitors, who typically perceive Wendell as paradise "but if only you had a good restaurant nearby", are fond of asking how a gourmand such as I can find peace and happiness without one.

Those of us who remember the classic "road house", situated on Rt. 2A just east of its merge with Rt. 2, known as Ma Alden's, dined at it's subsequent transformations, (forgive me a misname or if I have forgotten one), The Country Kitchen, The Whitetail, Deer Run, watched as the building sat fallow for the last several years, will rejoice its newest incarnation as Ronzo's Bistro.

Ron Mooradian, who has traveled the world, done a few stints as a chef at some pretty hoitsy Ptown (Cape Cod) Continental style dining rooms, has joined with his wife Carolyn Connerat to consumate his "life long dream" of building and operating a fine food dining establishment. Ron and Carol moved from Cambridge to Royalston five years ago. Ron is also a talented jazz saxophonist and his dream also encompasses that passion.

Ronzo's culinary leanings were born at Chef Mooradian's family vegetable farm upbringing which instilled a basic understanding of where food comes from and how it should be handled. Ron believes that great food

Although there are typically special offerings, we found the menu in want of items we think should be traditional offerings i.e.: scallops, lamb and salmon. Something tells me Ron could do a great job on braised lamb shanks! However, this diner has found the offerings consistently to live up to the chef's goals of authentically perfect preparation and aesthetic presentation. Entrees are priced from $15 to $18 and we are informed that they are adding some less expensive items. If you start with the scrumptious Tuscan Sausage and Bean Soup and add a wine or one of the generously poured bar offerings, you can expect to ante up $50 - $60 per couple. The value is there and you get what you pay for. Although child friendly, please be warned that this is NOT your typical "family style" restaurant, no huge mounds of frozen French fries, big bowls of lasagna and slabs of meat loaf.

I would be remiss not to mention that, at least in our several forays, the service staff, while friendly and never offensive, were not as attentive or skilled as Ron's culinary standards would seem to demand.

Ron and Carol have done a terrific job on the design and ambience of the physical structure, dining room and bar. There is sufficient and easy parking, a handicap ramp and a comfortable well provisioned bar. The dining room, while not exactly spacious, is relaxing and translates the owner's vision of countrified must be lovingly prepared from scratch without reliance on convenience or "value added" ingredients. Ron and Carol's goal is to "deliver a fine dining experience in a casual atmosphere".

Ron strives to create a "soulful and comfortable" cuisine with multi-national influences. Each menu item is cooked to order from the highest quality meats, seafood and vegetables available. His tastes run strongly toward northern Italy. Grilled and roasted meats and seafoods as well as some very good pasta dishes predominate. Portions, while not huge, are quite sufficient. This diner appreciates Ron's uncontrived "down to earth" culinary approach coupled with an ability to marry a wide range of flavors on the plate. My Lobster Linguine ($18) included almost more lobster that I wanted to eat! The sauce was rich but balanced and was clearly composed in the sauté pan as is it should be, and not ladled out of a steam table. There is always a catch-of-the-day fresh fish offering. My partner's Swordfish, nested into a pile of roasted garlic mashed potatoes, ($16) was perfectly basted and grilled. Ron's signature appears to be three perfectly cooked spears of asparagus which lead the eye to the main entrée ingredient. Other entrees include Chicken Marsala, Pasta Puttanesca, Scampi, a grilled Filet Mignon and Roasted Citrus Glazed Chicken. A good selection of wines, beers and spirits and a tempting desert tray compliment the menu.

refinement. Conducive to a fine dining experience, the cottage like environment suggests Ron & Carol's desire to create the image that you are coming to their house for dinner.

Ronzo's Bistro is open for dinner, 5-9 on Wed, Thurs. and Sun.; 5-10 on Fri. and Sat. There is frequently live music, usually jazz, on Wednesday night. From what we've seen, Ronzo's is developing a loyal patronage (including some folks that are regularly traveling from Springfield!). On weekends, reservations are suggested.

Now that our bridge is restored, Ronzo's Bistro should be within a ten minute drive for any of us Wendellians. Having had several dining experiences at Ronzo's with friends, I can testify that Ron and Carol's dream, investment and hard work adds one ingredient to my vision of paradise.

By Chef Myron Becker

SOME FRANKLIN COUNTY FAIR WINNERS

Frank Becchetti of Wendell won a first prize for his beer entry in the category, American Light. He won another first for his Strong Beer. His White grape hybrid/native and his red grape vinifera; novelty also won firsts.

Judith Davis won a first for Home Arts and Crafts in the Teddy Bear category.

Congratulations! Kathy Becker

Erving School Union #28 Child Care Program Community Partnerships for Children

HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED DOING FAMILY CHILD CARE IN WENDELL?
If you have....WE NEED YOU!

The **Community Partnerships for Children Child Care Program** is looking for licensed family child care providers or people willing to become licensed to do child care in their own home. This is a wonderful way to earn money while staying home with your young children. Families are currently looking for child care services in Wendell for their preschool age children and younger. The Community Partnerships for Children Child Care Program offers support, training, a lending library for child care providers and subsidies for child care tuition for eligible families.
Contact Gillian Budine for more information: (413) 659-3337.

"The Union #28 Community Partnerships for Children is a grant funded program through the Massachusetts Department of Education."

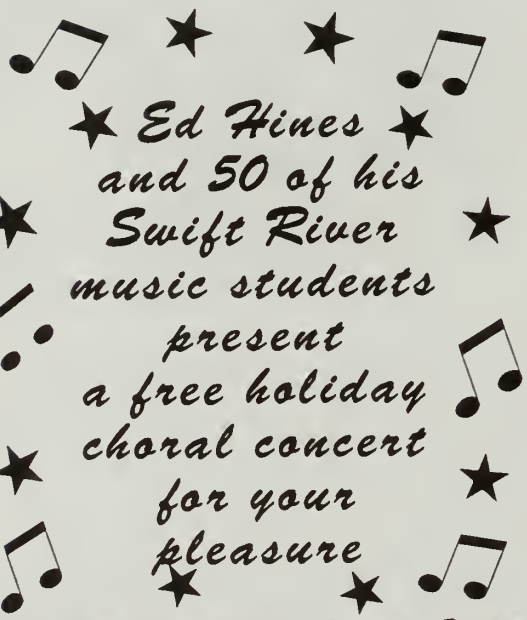
Posting Place

local artisans

HolidaySale

Saturday
December 16
1-5

at the
Wendell Senior Center



At the Wendell Town Hall
Dec. 15 at 10:30 am

TOWN OFFICES OPENINGS

The Board of Health needs a Clerk. Contact the Board of Health, Janee Stone, Chair at 544-3594.

One member is needed for the Finance Committee (Contact Town Moderator, Kathy Becker at 544-2086)

An opening on the Franklin County Technical School Committee is anticipated in the spring. Contact the Town Moderator.

TO: Wendell Post

Beginning immediately and until further notice, the Board of Assessors will meet on Tuesday at 1PM at the Wendell Town Offices.

The Assessors Clerk will be Available to the public on Monday between 1 and 3 PM at the Wendell Town Office.

Story Hour at Wendell Free Library

I want to tell you how much Dante has been enjoying Story hour with Ellen Trousdale at the Wendell Free Library on alternate Tuesday mornings at 10:00am. I told him the other day it was time to go to story hour with Ellen and he said "Ellen" (Eh Eh), one of his first words! Ellen is a joy to watch, she is so comfortable with the varied needs and interests of all the children. She keeps things moving along at the perfect pace with her stories, books, musical instruments, crafts and snacks. It is clear that Ellen puts a lot of work into creating a cohesive theme each time and that consistency really helps the kids stay focused. If you have a child age 0-4 come check it out! This event is sponsored by the Family Network. For more info call Ellen Trousdale 544-7335

By Karen Traub

GENTLE YOGA CLASS
MONDAYS 6:30 PM
Town Hall, Wendell
Led by Susan von Ranson

Wing — 50th

WENDELL — Lorraine and Kenneth Wing of Wendell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 22 at the French King Restaurant in Erving.

The anniversary party was given by their eight children — Kenneth Jr. of Bealton, Va., Sheila Rowe of Wendell, Christine Wing-Hanlon of Bernardston, Diane Gulley of Darbyville, Ohio, Anita Clark of Hilliard, Ohio, Michael of Wendell, Timothy of Westford and Paula of Brockton. Approximately 60 attended the event. Candace Wetherbee of Leverett made the anniversary cake.

The anniversary celebration continued with a sunset cruise on the Quinnetuket II with family and friends. Music at the reception and on the cruise was provided by a clarinetist and guitarist.

Wing and the former Lorraine Chaplin were married in Winchester, N.H., July 22, 1950, by Justice of the Peace Parke F. Weeks. Witnesses were the late Kathleen Chaplin, the bride's mother, and the late Herbert Wing Jr., the bridegroom's brother. The couple have lived in Wendell for 43 years.

Wing spent his early years driving trucks for Ernest Parker, Horace Bolton, L.E. Clapp, Athol Motors and Erving Motors. He also was employed by Pro Brush in Florence, Duall Plastics in Athol, Deerfield Plastics, Erving Paper and Wendell Recycle and Transfer Station. He retired as head custodian at Leverett Elementary School.

Mrs. Wing, a homemaker, worked for six years for Head Start as a teacher's aide, driver and cook. She also was a personal care attendant for Barbara Paulin of Erving.

Kenneth and Lorraine Wing — 1950

Lorraine and Kenneth Wing — 2000

The Wings are 16-year members of the Moores Corner Church in Leverett.

They have 15 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

LOCAL WOMEN PUBLISH ANTHOLOGY ON THE FEAR OF BREAST CANCER RETURN

Women of the Pioneer Valley Breast Cancer Network have published *Unbearable uncertainty: the Fear of Breast Cancer Recurrence.* The Pioneer Valley Breast Cancer Network is a group of women who began meeting in December of 1993 our of concern about the breast cancer epidemic. The goals of the group are to provide community education and awareness of the issues relating to breast cancer; to conduct legislative and advocacy campaigns to improve access for all women to screening, diagnosis and treatment; and to increase public dollars for breast cancer research, especially research related to the environmental causes of the disease.

The book is an anthology of prose, poetry, and graphic art dealing with the subject of fear from the perspective of those who have personally dealt with breast cancer. The subject is unusual and is of pertinence to those whose lives have been touched by cancer and the emotional roller coaster experienced for months and years following the initial diagnosis and treatment of the disease.

In a project that took almost three years to complete, *Unbearable Uncertainty* was edited by a committee of four Western Massachusetts women. Submissions were sought and included from women all around the United States. Area contributors include: Jamie Young, Ashfield: Tess Rock, Amherst: Pamela Roberts, Colrain; Beth Kaplowitt, Easthampton: Laura Roberts, Shutesbury: Anne Perkins, Wendell.

A copy can be obtained by mail order for $19.95 plus $4.95 shipping from: Pioneer Valley Breast Cancer Network
P.O. Box 236
Haydenville, MA 01039

WENDELL AIKIDO

On going classes take place on M 6-7:30 pm and W 6-7 pm.
This January we will have both Adult beginners' class and children's class. Charles Gilliam has been teaching a class for five-year-olds and up this fall. Parents are welcome to attend with their children.

Our core group of members has been meeting at the Swift River School for over ten years. This summer you may have seen us practicing out on the common, our original meeting site. As a group we have attended trainings throughout New England. This past summer Faith Diemand and myself traveled to Santa Cruz California for an Aikido retreat with teachers for Japan in attendance.

For additional information on all these classes or Aikido in general call Ria @ 413-367-9787

THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN PART BY

MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL
A state agency that funds your community's local cultural council

Each year the Wendell Arts Council receives funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to be awarded to grant applicants for cultural projects which will benefit our community.

This annual survey will assist the Arts Council to better understand the cultural interests of our community, in order to review our priorities for the 2000/01 funding cycle. This survey may be dropped off at the **Wendell Free Library**, **Wendell Post Office**, **Wendell Depot Post Office/Store**, or mailed to: Phyllis Lawrence, 120 Old Egypt Rd., Shutesbury MA 01072. Please respond by Jan.15

What kind of cultural programs do you enjoy? (Please circle your favorites)

Music	Literature	Art	Theater
Science	Dance	History	Other

Please rate the importance of the following programs. (Circle each one as you prioritize their importance.)

1)*Very Important*	2)*Important*		3)*Not Important*
• Public Art Shows	1	2	3
• Public Concerts	1	2	3
• Supporting the work of Local Artists	1	2	3
• Restoration and Preservation Projects	1	2	3
• Science and Nature Projects	1	2	3
• School Artists-in-Residence Projects	1	2	3
• Reduced Price Tickets (for school groups to attend performing arts programs)	1	2	3
• Local History Projects	1	2	3
• Crafts and Folk Art	1	2	3
• Theater, Mime, Puppetry	1	2	3
• Poetry Readings, Storytelling	1	2	3

What additional Arts, Humanities or Science programs would you like to see supported by the Arts Council?

What kind of cultural activities have you attended in town?

Have you ever been a party to a grant with our Arts Council? (Please explain your participation if any.)

How do you find out about cultural activities in Wendell?

What portion of the grant allocation should go to programs benefiting students and programs benefiting the general public? (Please use % of 100.)

School Programs _____% General Public _____%

Thank you for participating in this project. We appreciate your time.
REMINDER: GRANT APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE ABOVE LOCATIONS AND ARE DUE BY OCTOBER 15.